

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS, FEBRUARY 1934

(Compiled by Mary O. Souder)

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list of tornadoes will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
Choteau, Mont.....	1	7:45 a.m.			\$2,000	Wind.....	1 person injured; small buildings blown down.....	Official, U.S. Weather Bureau.
South Dakota, entire State.....	3	10 a.m.-6 p.m.				Severe dust storm.	Due to long-continued drought and barren fields, high wind velocity caused a severe dust storm and much blowing of soil; traffic and travel delayed; at times visibility less than $\frac{1}{8}$ mile.	Do.
Austwell, Tex.....	8	5:40 p.m.	14		6,000	Hail.....	Loss to truck; damage to roofs and windows; path 8 miles long.	Do.
Cuero, near, Tex.....	8					Tornado.....	Property damaged; loss not estimated.....	Do.
Norfolk, Va.....	9					Ice.....	Traffic delayed; water pipes and systems frozen in many instances.	Do.
Memphis, Tenn.....	9-10			1		Ice and sleet.....	Traffic dangerous and difficult; viaduct in eastern portion of city closed to traffic after several cars had skidded and piled up; woman killed when her car skidded on a bridge and plunged 50 feet below.	Do.
Springfield, Mo.....	10	5:30-8 p.m.		2		Rain, sleet, and glaze.	75 automobile accidents reported within an hour; 3 cars piled up at one time on viaduct; 5 persons seriously injured.	Do.
Stuart, Fla.....	10	7:30-9 a.m.	15-6		60,000	Hail.....	Some hailstones as large as golf balls; \$50,000 loss to crops and \$10,000 damage to property.	Do.
Eastport, Me.....	13-14	P.m.				Snow and wind.....	The railroad and main highway out of city completely blocked; much labor required before traffic could be resumed.	Do.
Northern LaSalle and central Catahoula Parishes, La.	15	do.	2,640			Heavy hail.....	At Urania, LaSalle Parish, hail fell from 5:45-6 p.m., and the hailstones, up to an inch in diameter, reached a depth of 2 inches on the ground; considerable damage to property and timber; loss to crops; estimate of damage not available; path 35 miles long.	Do.
Oklahoma City, Geary, and Chickasha, Okla.	17-18					Ice.....	Ice formed on wires and with high wind some damage resulted.	Do.
Davenport, Iowa.....	18-19				7,500	Rain and snow.....	Pavements slippery making driving hazardous.....	Do.
Red Bluff, Calif., and vicinity.	19					Flood.....	Cloudburst caused damage to roads, fences, dwellings, livestock, and poultry.	Do.
New York, east and southeast portions.	19-20			12		Snow and wind.....	High winds drifted the snow, paralyzing automobile traffic, greatly delaying trains and street cars; thousands of commuters in New York City and vicinity were stranded in homes, railway stations, trains, and buses; telephone and electric lines crippled; many schools closed; 12 deaths attributed to the blizzard conditions.	Do.
Pennsylvania, southeastern portion of State.	19-20					Heavy snowfall and gales.	Wind swept the snow from fields and piled it up behind fences and on highways; traffic blocked for 3 or 4 days, drifts being 6 to 8 feet deep; traffic was beginning to move again when a 6 to 8 inch snowfall, accompanied by strong winds, restored the blockade.	Do.
New Jersey, north shore.....	20			1		Snow and gale.....	Farmingdale and Hightstown cut off entirely from outside world; drifts stalled trains on the Matawan-Freehold division of Central Railroad and commuters were taken to their destination by buses; Pennsylvania Railroad plows cleared 1,200 feet of track to permit trains to pass over the Canadian-Amboy division; depth of snow 12 inches; some schools closed; man died from exposure.	Do.
New York, N.Y.....	21			6		Blizzard.....	City snowbound for 18 hours; this new blizzard of history lashed the city and blew with unparalleled intensity through the canyons between its tall buildings; half a million persons marooned by the storm; business houses closed for the day because of lack of personnel; for the fifth time in history the stock exchange failed to open at 10 a.m. because of the weather; at noon hardly a train on the Long Island Railroad, which carries more commuters than any other line into the city, had entered the Pennsylvania station.	Do.
Springfield, Mo.....	24	2:40 - 11:20 a.m.				Snow, sleet, and glaze.	Heavy glaze deposit on wires, trees, and pavements; several minor automobile accidents reported.	Do.
Iowa.....	24	4 a.m.				Snow.....	Air service through Des Moines interrupted; traffic delayed as strong east wind through central part of State caused snow to drift.	Do.
Arkansas, northern and central portions.	24-25					Glaze.....	Several thousand dollars' damage to telephone, telegraph, and power lines and to fruit trees and shrubbery; ice and sleet coated the ground and travel was hazardous.	Do.
Illinois, central and southern portions.	24-25					Snow, sleet, rain, and glaze.	Telephone service interrupted, traffic dangerous, glaze formed on trees and wires at Cairo and New Burnside, Ill.	Do.
Evansville, Ind.....	24-25					Snow and sleet.....	Automobile traffic extremely hazardous; street car service very irregular.	Do.
Topeka, Kans.....	24-25					Heavy snow.....		Do.
Centerhill and Daleville, Miss.	24-25	2:35-2:50 p.m.	250	6		Tornado.....	6 in one family killed when house was demolished; path 10 miles long.	Do.
Purvis to 2 miles southeast of Kewanee, Miss.	25	2:55-3:20 p.m.	116	6		do.....	During both these tornadoes 20 persons were seriously injured and 35 others suffered minor injuries; 61 buildings, homes, and barns were destroyed; estimated amount of damage from these storms, \$30,000. For more details see article "Tornadoes in Lauderdale County, Miss., Sunday, Feb. 25, 1934," published in MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, this issue.	Do.
Bowdon, Ga., and vicinity.....	25	p.m.		2	500,000	2 tornadoes.....	30 homes demolished; second tornado unroofed a dormitory and the main building at Bowdon College; man and wife killed at Bethel Camp Ground, few miles northeast of Bowdon, when their home was wrecked.	Do.
Green and Clay Counties, Ala..	25		120	5	111,000	2 tornadoes and hail.	52 persons injured and more than 90 homes destroyed.	Do.

1 Miles instead of yards.

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Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
Hampton, near, Ga.....	25					Tornado.....	One, who saw it from 200 yards away, reported the tornado made a noise like the roar of a train only much louder; an automobile was hurled through the air about a hundred feet, houses demolished, but occupants being away from home at the time, escaped injury.	Official, U.S. Weather Bureau.
New Jersey, entire State.....	25-26			1		Blizzard.....	Wires down, telephone service interrupted; transit lines struggled to maintain schedules; buses, trolleys, and trains fought their way through heavy drifts; all scheduled air mail and passenger flights from Newark Airport were canceled; no planes had arrived or departed there since noon of 25th; one death from exposure reported from Elizabeth; Brigantine, Cape May, and North Wildwood were isolated by the storm all day of the 25th.	Do.
Iredell County to Warren County, N.C.	25-26				4,500,000	Sleet and glaze.....	Damage to telephone, telegraph, and power lines will exceed \$1,500,000; damage to forests estimated at double this amount.	Do.
Middle and eastern counties, Tenn.	25-26					Light glaze.....	Roads slippery; numerous accidents reported.....	Do.
Virginia, entire State.....	25-26				600,000	Heavy snow, glaze, and sleet accompanied by thunderstorms.	Approximate damage to wire systems \$100,000; estimate for repairing highways for traffic, \$500,000.	Do.
Quincy, near, Fla.....	26	2 a.m.	440		2,000	Wind.....	2 tobacco barns on Santa Lee farm west of Quincy blown down.	Do.
Madison County, Fla.....	26	3:30 a.m.			2,500	Squall.....	3 large tobacco barns blown down; trees uprooted.	Do.
Hawthorn, near, Fla.....	26	5-6 a.m.	200	1	4,000	Tornado.....	3 houses demolished; other property damaged; 5 persons injured, 1 fatally.	Do.
Brooksville, Fla., and vicinity..	26	5:15 a.m.	440			Rain and wind.....	Trees and barns blown down; a house shaken from its foundation; loss to fruit crop.	Do.
Jacksonville, Fla., and vicinity.	26	6 a.m.			2,000	Squall.....	Roof of warehouse on water front blown onto deck of vessel.	Do.
La Crosse, Fla.....	26	6 a.m.			1,000	Wind and rain.....	2 persons injured; property damaged.....	Do.
Palatka, Fla.....	26	6:15 a.m.	117		10,000-15,000	Tornado.....	Damage through path 1,320 yards long.....	Do.
St. Augustine, Fla.....	26	6:30 a.m.	7			do.....	Roof destroyed and several trees uprooted.....	Do.
Sanford, Fla.....	26	6:45 a.m.			2,500	Wind.....	Damage to trees and a building at a cemetery.....	Do.
Zellwood, Fla.....	26	6:45 a.m.	100			Wind and rain.....	Considerable damage to timber; minor damage to roofs.	Do.
De Land, Fla.....	26	6:55 a.m.			8,500	Heavy rain and wind.	Main hangar at airport completely demolished; power and light lines down; 5 percent of citrus fruit blown from trees.	Do.
Tafts, Fla.....	26	7 a.m.	200			Wind.....	4 persons injured; house and church demolished..	Do.
New York City and vicinity...	26-27					Heavy snow.....	Traffic hindered to a considerable extent.....	Do.

¹ Miles instead of yards.

